



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## STATEMENTS OF REP. HINTZ AND REP. BERNARD-SCHABER THE DEMOCRATIC VOICES OF NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

### GOVERNOR WALKER, SQUEEZING THROUGH BUDGET "REPAIR" BILL WITH NO PUBLIC INPUT REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP SHOULD FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURE

**MADISON** –Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) and Rep. Penny Bernard-Schaber (D-Appleton) express their shock and disappointment at Governor Walker's move to squeeze through his so-called Budget "Repair" Bill next week that makes drastic changes that will negatively affect workers across our state.

#### **Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh):**

"I am outraged at this outright power grab", said Rep. Hintz. "Governor Walker has gone too far this time. To throw a 144 page proposal out today and expect the legislature to vote on it in 6 days without the opportunity for public input is an abuse of power. I first heard details about the proposal yesterday, not from Governor Walker or the Republican Leadership, but instead on a radio spot put forth by the Institute for Wisconsin's Future."

"This is not what the voters signed on for in November. This is a Governor who is more interested in ramming through his ideology than governing responsibly. I ask the Republican Leadership to allow voters time to weigh in through public hearings. Last time I checked we live in a Democracy. Governor Walker may not like his radical proposal facing public scrutiny, but it is your responsibility to ensure you are doing more than just rubber stamping whatever the Governor throws your way. This is Wisconsin, and this is not how we govern."

#### **Rep. Penny Bernard-Schaber (D-Appleton):**

"I am disappointed in Governor Walker and the Republican Leadership's handling of this matter", said Rep. Bernard Schaber. "The message from Governor Walker and the Republican Leadership is that they want to work in a bipartisan manner to solve our budget problems. I am willing to do so, but now I'm realizing that these are just sound bites. By springing this on us at the last minute, making the decision to deny my constituents the opportunity to weigh in, and jamming this through under the guise of a budget "repair" bill, the Governor is making it clear that he alone is running the show."

Governor Walker's proposal was released to Democratic legislators and the public today and pages can be viewed online at:

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/February11/0211/0211walkerbudgetlrb.pdf>

Walker's special session legislative proposal, which he is referring to as a Budget Repair bill, includes many policy changes. These include the repeal of workers' right to collectively bargain, drastic changes to the state pension program and develops a plan for the National Guard to assume power.

This proposal may be brought up by Republican Leadership for a vote in the Joint Committee on Finance as early as next Wednesday and before the State Assembly next Thursday. As of 11:00am today, the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau had not been provided an opportunity to review the proposal and give feedback to legislators on both sides of the aisle.

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